



**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

# Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge

*Comprehensive Conservation Plan  
January 2009*



*Front Cover:*

*Sweat Meadow*

Paul Casey/USFWS

*Blackburnian warbler*

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*Moose*

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*Loon*

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*Back Cover:*

*Sweat Meadow*

Paul Casey/USFWS



*This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, has become the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million acre National Wildlife Refuge System comprised of more than 545 national wildlife refuges and thousands of waterfowl production areas. It also operates 65 national fish hatcheries and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, administers the Endangered Species Act, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance Program which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state wildlife agencies.

Comprehensive Conservation Plans provide long term guidance for management decisions and set forth goals, objectives, and strategies needed to accomplish refuge purposes and identify the Service's best estimate of future needs. These plans detail program planning levels that are sometimes substantially above current budget allocations and, as such, are primarily for Service strategic planning and program prioritization purposes. The plans do not constitute a commitment for staffing increases, operational and maintenance increases, or funding for future land acquisition.



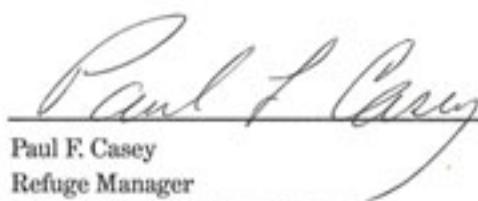
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge

(Formerly the Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge)

*Comprehensive Conservation Plan*  
January 2009

Submitted by:

  
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1-2-09

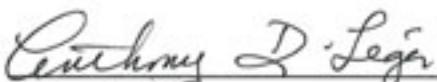
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January 9, 2009

Date



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge

## *Comprehensive Conservation Plan*

### **Refuge Vision Statement**

"We envision Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge as an essential link in the network of conservation lands in the Northern Forests. We will showcase science-based, adaptive management in a working forest landscape and provide an outstanding center for research. We will achieve this through strong partnerships with State agencies, conservation organizations, land managers, and neighboring communities.

"Our management will perpetuate the diversity and integrity of upland spruce-fir and northern hardwood forests, boreal and riverine wetlands, and lake habitats for the continued health of native fish and wildlife populations. These habitats will provide an important regional breeding area for migratory land birds, waterfowl, and other species of regional significance, such as the common loon and bald eagle.

"Visitors of all ages will feel welcome to enjoy the full complement of priority wildlife-dependent public uses. We will foster their knowledge of and support for conserving northern forest habitats through exceptional outreach and visitor programs. We want all our visitors to return home filled with enthusiasm for promoting and practicing resource stewardship in their own communities.

"We hope residents of neighboring communities in Maine and New Hampshire will value the refuge for enhancing their quality of life. Within the National Wildlife Refuge System, the refuge will be treasured for conserving Federal trust resources and providing inspirational outdoor experiences for present and future generations of Americans."

# **Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge**

(formerly "Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge")

*Comprehensive Conservation Plan*  
*January 2009*

## **Abstract**

**Type of action:** Administrative  
U.S. Department of Interior

**Lead agency:** Fish and Wildlife Service

**Responsible official:** Marvin Moriarty, Regional Director, Region 5

**For further information:** Refuge Manager  
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This Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) is the culmination of a 6-year planning process that involved the Service, state agencies from both Maine and New Hampshire, the local community, refuge neighbors, private landowners, and conservation partners. It will guide the management of all refuge programs over the next 15 years. This plan's highest priority is to protect the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of Umbagog Lake and its associated rivers and streams. Its second highest priority is to conserve upland mixed forest habitat and sustain the native species dependent on it. This CCP expands the refuge boundary, allowing the Service to pursue from willing sellers the acquisition of 47,807 acres of important habitats for such species of concern as common loons, bald eagles, and blackburnian and black-throated green warblers. Implementing the CCP will improve the quality of existing wildlife-dependent recreational programs and offer several new public use opportunities on refuge lands. It will also strengthen refuge partnerships with respective state agencies and local entities that offer similar recreational programs in the area. Refuge visitor programs and community outreach will be further enhanced by the construction of a new refuge headquarters and visitor contact facility.

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